

SITUATION REPORT NO. 10
INCIDENT NO. 2006-016
DATE: April 21, 2006 Time: 4:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Spring Flooding/Severe Storms** – The rapid snowmelt of heavy winter snow accumulations, compounded by spring rains, snow storms and sudden warm temperatures, is causing spring flooding in the Red River Valley. Additionally, snow and rain storms have disrupted power supplies and stranded motorists in western North Dakota.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** During an April 19 spring snow storm, a triple fatality occurred on U.S. Highway 85 in North Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The N.D. Highway Patrol reported weather was a contributing factor.

Sheridan Electric Cooperative officials verified an employee died April 18 in a weather-related accident in northwestern Divide County, four miles east of Westby, Montana.

3. **DAMAGES:** As of April 21, flood warnings remain in effect for the northern Red and Pembina Rivers. Meteorologists for the Grand Forks Office of the National Weather Service (NWS) indicated river levels are steadily falling. Rainfall earlier in the week amounted to an average of one-quarter of one inch.

The Bismarck Office of the NWS reported an April 18-20 spring blizzard produced up to 18 inches of snow and peak winds of 53 miles per hour (mph). A low-pressure system, stalled along the North Dakota — South Dakota line, produced a band of heavy snow from the Black Hills to I-94. An April 19 contingency report, issued by the NWS, did not detect a strong potential for flooding in western North Dakota as a result of the severe storm. During the past 24 hours, the Little Missouri River at Marmarth rose almost six feet, from 3.9 feet to 9.5 feet; flood stage is 18 feet. Hydrologists at the NWS River Forecast Center do not expect the river to rise above flood stage. NWS will continue to monitor the runoff and its impact on the river hydrology.

On April 18, the Billings, Divide and Golden Valley County Sheriff's Offices advised no travel due to icy and snow packed roads.

Flood Projections by River (updated April 21 at 12:00 p.m.)

For more information log on to <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=fgf>

Major Flooding
Moderate Flooding
Minor Flooding
Near Flood Stage
No Flooding

Location	Flood Stage	Crest	Date	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI
				April 21	April 22	April 23	April 24	April 25	April 26	April 27	April 28
Red River at Fargo	18 feet	37.18 ft	4/5	17.7 ft	17.6 ft	17.4 ft	17.3 ft	17.2 ft	17.1 ft	17.1 ft	17.0 ft
Red River at E. Grand Forks	28 feet	47.85 ft	4/6	31.0 ft	29.7 ft	28.1 ft	26.8 ft	25.6 ft	24.6 ft	23.8 ft	23.1 ft
Red River at Oslo	26 feet	37.70 ft	4/6	32.1 ft	30.6 ft	29.2 ft	27.8 ft	26.4 ft	25.0 ft	23.9 ft	23.0 ft
Red River at Drayton	32 feet	42.90 ft	4/11	40.8 ft	40.0 ft	39.2 ft	38.7 ft	38.2 ft	37.6 ft	36.8 ft	36.1 ft
Red River at Pembina	49 feet	51.44 ft	4/13	50.4 ft	50.3 ft	50.3 ft	50.0 ft	49.6 ft	48.8 ft	47.5 ft	46.1 ft
Willow Creek at Willow City	10 feet	14.08 ft	4/3	12.0 ft	11.9 ft	11.8 ft	11.6 ft	11.5 ft	11.4 ft	not listed	not listed
Souris River at Westhope	10 feet	10.1	4/7 still rising	9.3 ft	9.3 ft	9.2 ft	9.2 ft	9.2 ft	9.1 ft	not listed	not listed
Pembina River at Neche	18 feet	23-23 ft		21.2 ft	21.0 ft	20.8 ft	20.7 ft	20.5 ft	20.4 ft	20.2 ft	20.1 ft
Pembina River at Walhalla	11 feet	15.83 ft	4/11	12.6 ft	12.1 ft	11.6 ft	11.1 ft	10.7 ft	10.4 ft	10.2 ft	10.0 ft

The State Operations Center (SOC) received the following reports from local Emergency Managers:

Cass County

A property owner lost his home when his dike failed; initial estimates indicate approximately \$230,000 in damages. The home is located along N.D. Highway 81 south of Fargo at the confluence of the Red and Wild Rice Rivers.

Pembina County

On April 20, pea sized hail along with heavy rain fell in the evening, with 0.19 inches of rain northwest of Cavalier, 0.30 inches in Drayton, 0.16 inches in Hamilton, 0.10 inches in Pembina, 0.23 inches in St. Thomas and 0.22 inches in Walhalla. N.D. Highway 18 is dry from the Neche Port-of-Entry to the Pembina River Bridge, and has up to 1.5 inches of water on the roadway from the bridge to the junction of N.D. Highway 18 and Pembina County Road 55. Although the river levels are falling, there is still significant road inundation and water issues in the north and east portions of the county.

Rolette County

Local roads have sustained wash-overs and washouts, and have inundated and saturated sub-grades.

Sargent County

The County Emergency Manager reported that township roads, county roads and bridges are being damaged by floodwaters, posing a threat to public safety and well being. Damages to township roads are loss of shoulders, sink holes, culvert loss and erosion of road surfaces around bridges and culverts. The Emergency Manager and township supervisors toured local road structures. Their assessment indicates roads are in worse shape than after last summer's flooding. Because of the continued water movement, natural storage sites that remain full or overfull, and ground saturation, roads are being flooded and damaged. At this time pitrun and surface gravel will not repair or place the roads back to pre-disaster condition. Blading and graveling of roads is impossible because of the saturation. There is no base at some of these sites. As a result, vehicles are bottoming out and getting stuck on the roads.

Several homeowners have moisture and water in basements.

Williams County

On April 20, officials for the Mountrail Williams Rural Electric Cooperative (MWREC) estimated approximately 185 poles were down, from west of Williston to the Montana-North Dakota state line and in the Black Tail Dam area, impacting approximately 295 consumers. Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU) officials reported approximately 16 poles were down from Zahl to Appam along N.D. Highway 50 and in the northern portion of county. Most of the damages affecting MDU customers have been repaired and service has restored. Gravel roads, ditches and fields are in poor condition and are being damaged by the electric companies' equipment.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Grand Forks Search and Rescue and the Pembina County Sheriff's Office delivered bottled water to two Neche families whose homes were isolated by overland flooding. A North Valley Water (NVW) official requested the bottled water for the families as the NVW water line under the Pembina River is not flowing.

FirstLink in Fargo has organized volunteers to assist residents who have requested cleanup assistance.

In Williams County, farmers with heavy equipment are assisting the electrical crews by pulling equipment in and out of the fields where damaged poles are located.

The Salvation Army provided 25 cleanup kits to Pembina County, which will be available to residents and distributed to pickup points throughout the county.

6. **MAJOR ACTIONS:** During the past week, the County Commissions for Cavalier, Ransom, Rolette and Towner Counties signed emergency declarations. On April 21, the City of Neche submitted a Disaster Declaration to the State Operations Center (SOC)

N.D. Electrical Board (NDEB)

The Executive Director for the NDEB stated staff is currently on alert for electrical needs requests in western North Dakota caused by the spring snow storm.

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

The USCG demobilized its resources in northeastern North Dakota on April 17.

N.D. Department of Transportation (NDDOT)

The NDDOT has re-opened N.D. Highway 54 east of I-29 to the Red River. The roadway was closed to all but local and emergency traffic on April 6 due to flooding on the Minnesota side of the river.

N.D. Department of Human Services (NDDHS)

Staff members from NDDHS have been participating in periodic meeting with the N.D. Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). The volunteer agencies have been monitoring conditions and providing assistance to flood victims.

N.D. National Guard (NDNG)

NDNG resources have supported counties impacted by Red River Basin flooding to include monitoring dikes in the city of Wahpeton; supporting construction of a dike to protect the city of Lidgerwood; staging and repositioning Guard assets, both equipment and personnel, along the Red River from Wahpeton to Pembina; supporting communities with the transport of sandbags, aviation reconnaissance and response north of the city of Grand Forks; and construction of dikes in the city of Neche. The NDNG is currently involved in the recovery phase, repositioning of equipment back to home stations, and administration activities. As of April 19, the Guard has logged over 275 State Active Duty Days, transported over 100,000 sandbags and 1,000 tons of clay and dirt, and has flown over 30 hours of missions in support of the citizens of North Dakota.

Cass County

Flood cleanup continues for the City of Fargo and Fargo Parks District. Eighteen roads remain closed. Highway Department crews are opening roads as they become safe for travel. Some township officials expect their roads could have water over them for the next two weeks.

Pembina County

On April 18, officials for the city of Pembina placed plastic and sandbags on the south side of the city to prevent erosion from the waves. More sandbags will be filled in case rural residents need them.

On April 16, the Mayor of Neche requested the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provide technical assistance to evaluate the conditions of dikes. USACE engineers are working with city of Neche officials to shore up the bottoms of dikes with clay, from 4th Street to 7th Street. Officials for Neche requested N.D. Highway 18 be cut near the Canadian Border to alleviate floodwaters; however, the NDDOT and the Pembina County Water Board concurred such action was not needed at this time. A request to cut County Road 55 was denied as well by Pembina County Commissioners. Water levels are slowly dropping in the cities of Walhalla, LeRoy and points west of Neche. The Emergency Manager scheduled an aerial reconnaissance flight with the N.D. National Guard, for the city of Neche and Pembina County Water Board, to tour the Neche area on April 17.

Rolette County

On April 18, the Emergency Manager reported local road crews are flagging and closing roads, replacing washed out pipes and filling holes in the roadbed. Saturated sub-grade areas will be on a repair waiting list until the roads firm up.

Sargent County

Townships are flagging, signing and closing roads. At some sites, emergency ditching and pumping operations are underway to try to save the roads from complete washout or loss.

Williams County

The Emergency Manager issued a news release alerting county residents to power outages. Crews from MDU and MWREC have been restoring power to affected areas. MWREC operations officials initiated their operations plan and set up a control center and a staging area at their office in Williams County. Crews will continue to assess damages and develop a plan of action. The County Highway Department cleared snow off paved highways and has been on standby to assist the electrical companies where needed.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: MWREC has requested and received assistance from neighboring Rural Electric Cooperatives (RECs) and construction companies.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: A complete list of road conditions is available at the NDDOT website at www.state.nd.us/dot/.

The N.D. Division of Homeland Security's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/des>.

Greg Wilz, Director
N.D. Division of Homeland Security